

MA THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

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VENICE AS CITY AND THEATER
February 27 - April 21, 1985

Eighteenth-century Venice was home to some of the most brilliant artists in Europe and an irresistible lure for travelers attracted as much by the city's colorful festivals and entertainments as by its grand architecture and picturesque waterways. Venice as City and Theater exhibits ninety 18th-century Venetian prints and drawings from the collections of The Cleveland Museum of Art, all splendid examples of the draftsmanship of Venetian masters whose works were sought after by travelers and collectors.

Michiel Marieschi's Views of Venice, a set of twenty etchings published in 1741, realistically describes the city's celebrated buildings, canals, and squares. Etchings by the famous Venetian view painter Canaletto depict both actual locales and picturesque buildings in a Venice of the artist's imagination. Giovanni Battista Tiepolo, the greatest of the 18th-century Venetian artists, populates his etchings with satyrs and philosophers, while his son Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo draws the adventures of Punchinello, the buffoon scoundrel of street theater. Among other works on exhibit are two drawings of the Piazza San Marco by Francesco Guardi, portrait drawings in chalk by Giovanni Battista Piazzetta, and the famous prison scenes of Giovanni Battista Piranesi.

Venice as City and Theater, organized by Louise S. Richards, the Museum's chief curator of prints and drawings, and Hilliard T. Goldfarb, assistant curator, will be on view from February 27 until April 21, 1985.

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